--- RC-386 - 20 Cigarettes - “Benson and Hedges”, Montreal [**8-10D**] - 1959-65 ---

The Canadian operations of “Benson and Hedges” was established by Arthur Walsh, a London (U.K.) bookkeeper who had been placed in charge of their New York branch in 1895, and who opened the first “Benson and Hedges” store in Montreal in 1906.

In 1927 “Benson and Hedges” moved into the Canadian cigar market when they purchased the assets of “J. Hirsch and Sons Ltd.”, Montreal [**34-10D**] which had been manufacturing cigars since the 1880’s.

In July 1958 “Philip Morris Incorporated” (which had merged with “Benson and Hedges”, New York, in 1954) also merged with “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited” [**8-10D**] and in 1961 opened a modern cigarette factory at Brampton, Ontario [**1-80E**].

In 1962 “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited” purchased “Tabacofina of Canada” [**30-10D**] and acquired their cigarette factory in Montreal where they had for some years manufactured *Belvedere* cigarettes. The company’s range of cigarettes included *Parliament*; *Alpine*; *Benson & Hedges* 100 mm., plain and menthol; *Mark 10*, plain and menthol; *Belvedere*, and *Belmont*.

The cancellations of **8-10D** - “Benson and Hedges”, Montreal - seem to stop early in 1965. Since they had purchased “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal, in 1962, one would presume that their Montreal cigarette production was transferred to the newly acquired plant in 1965. Their newly constructed plant **1-80-E** - “Benson and Hedges”, Brampton - continued production for Ontario. In 1965 the company code was reversed to read as **80E-1**.

The earliest listed cancellations from “Benson & Hedges” are from 1959 and show multiple mimeographed 3 mm. typewritten elite impressions in ***red*** or ***light blue*** ink using the letters from **A** to **L** to indicate the month, followed by a single number for the year.

By December 1959 they had settled on a thin mimeographed Gothic 5 mm. single cancellation. Twin letter impressions occur sprinkled throughout the cancellations, which may represent production from the second-half of the month (thus producing *twice-monthly* coding - for quality control purposes), or may be just a stencil typing variation from the company stenographer.

The cancellation colour varies - ***red ink*** and ***light blue*** were used in 1959 - ***purple ink*** from November 1960 to February 1962 - ***green ink*** until November 1962 - and thence in ***black ink***.

--- RC-386 - 20 Cigarettes - “Benson and Hedges”, Montreal [8-10D] - 1959-65 ---

★**RC-386** - 20 cigarettes, with a multiple mimeo,
8-10D / AA-9 in January 1959

★**RC-386** - 20 cigarettes, with a multiple mimeo,
8-10D / FF-9 in June 1959

★**RC-386** - 20 cigarettes, imperf,
mimeo L-9 / 8-10D in December 1959

★**RC-386** - 20 cigarettes, imperf,
mimeo B-1 / 8-10D in February 1961

--- 23 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1959	AA 9	---	C 9	---	---	F 9	---	---	---	---	---	L 9
1960	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	K 0	---
1961	---	BB 1	CC 1	DD 1	EE 1	---	GG 1	HH 1	II 1	JJ 1	---	---
1962	AA 2	BB 2	---	DD 2	EE 2	FF 2	---	---	---	J 2	K 2	---
1963	---	---	C 3	---	E 3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1964	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1965	---	---	C 5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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